

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
HONORS JOURNAL**

VOLUME XXVIII

University of Colorado Arts & Sciences Honors Program

Norlin Library Room M400M

184 University of Colorado Boulder

Boulder, Colorado 80309

Phone: (303) 492-6617

Email: honors.journal@colorado.edu

Websites: www.colorado.edu/honorsjournal and <https://journals.colorado.edu/index.php/honorsjournal/>

The 2023 University of Colorado Honors Journal

© copyrighted 2023

ISSN: 2836-3396 (Print), 2636-337X (Online)

Permissions: Individual authors maintain the Copyright to their respective works. Please contact the author directly to seek permission to reproduce, produce derivatives, distribute, or publicly display the work.

Cover Art, Layout & Typographic Design — Caroline Cappelletti

This journal was printed by OneTouchPoint in Denver, Colorado.

The University of Colorado Honors Journal

The journal is an annual interdisciplinary, student-run publication sponsored by the Arts & Sciences Honors Program at the University of Colorado Boulder under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the Director of the Honors Program. The Journal presents a collection of works that reflect the utmost talent, diligence, and creativity among undergraduate students at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Each year, the Honors Journal combines undergraduate work from all academic fields, including: art, creative nonfiction, fiction, gender & ethnic studies, humanities, natural science, open media, poetry, social science, and more. Although the Journal is directly associated with the Honors Program, submissions are accepted from all undergraduate students at the university. The Honors Journal is distributed and available to all students and departments at the University of Colorado. In order to reach a broader audience and exhibit works that are impossible to fully incorporate into the print edition, the Journal has an online version hosted at <https://journals.colorado.edu/index.php/honorsjournal/>, where content from this year's edition is accessible and www.colorado.edu/honorsjournal/, where content from past years' editions is available.

The Honors Journal was established and first published in 1992 under the supervision of faculty member Professor E. Christian Kopff and with the support of Honors Program Director, Jack Kelso. The first volumes were devoted to undergraduate research, highlighting an article by an outstanding Honors professor and abstracts of all summa cum laude honors theses.

In 1995, the Journal went on hiatus until 1998, when Honors Program Director Dennis Van Gerven reinstated it under the supervision of faculty mentor Dr. Claudia Van Gerven. That year, the Journal expanded to include poetry, fiction, and black-and-white artwork.

Selection Process

In order to ensure that the integrity of the Honors Journal is upheld, all selections are made via a blind review process. Upon receipt of each submission, pieces are screened by the managing editors to remove all identifying information from the piece, and each submission is labeled with a number that is used for reference purposes. Genre editors are not made aware of the names of the authors/artists until after final selections have been made.

Within this blind selection process, genre editors are instructed to remove themselves from review of any submission whose author they can identify. These pieces are reviewed and selected by the co-editors of that genre and/or the Head Editor in order to prevent any biases from potentially clouding judgments.

For additional queries regarding the blind review process, please contact us at honors.journal@colorado.edu and we will be happy to address your concerns

Get Published

The Honors Journal is an important showcase of the University's finest undergraduate work and offers students a unique opportunity to see their efforts published in a widely-distributed, juried publication available both in print and online versions.

Every year, the Editorial Board seeks submissions of exemplary undergraduate work for consideration of inclusion in the upcoming Journal. Generally, we are looking for art, creative writing, and academic papers. We are also interested in personal essays, final course assignments, critiques or reviews, short or long works of fiction, travel writing, and papers about works of literature, philosophy, or history. We accept submissions of all varieties. Essentially, if you are an undergraduate at CU-Boulder who has work that you are proud of, there is a category under which it can be published.

The Honors Journal accepts submissions year-round at www.colorado.edu/honorsjournal. For students completing an honors thesis in the spring semester of their senior year, please note that the Journal allows graduating students to submit work up until the submission deadline in mid-November following their graduation. To submit something, visit the website and click on the "Submit Your Work" tab. We look forward to reviewing your submissions!

Dedication

This year's journal is dedicated to Professor Janet Jacobs, who Directed the Honors Program from 2014 through 2022. Dr. Jacobs' leadership transformed the Honors Program. She developed a thriving student community within the program and supported the Honors Journal and its student board with consistent and kind support. Thank you Dr. Jacobs for all you have done for the Honors Program!

Acknowledgments

The Honors Journal could not be possible without the unyielding support of the University of Colorado Boulder Arts & Sciences Honors Program. In particular, the Editorial Board would like to thank Honors Program Interim Director Jennifer Fitzgerald, Program Manager Janelle Henderson, and Program Coordinator Kimberly Quiñonez. We owe a great deal to all of the Honors Program faculty for their continued support, without which the Journal would never find its way into the world.

This publication was funded, in part, by the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP, <https://www.colorado.edu/urop/>) at the University of Colorado Boulder, which provides grants to support student-faculty partnerships and projects in all fields of study. The Editorial Board is immensely grateful for the support of the above and for their dedication to student-run organizations such as our own.

Additionally, the Board would like to thank Dr. Abby Hickcox, whose guidance and leadership all year has helped to produce a new and exciting Honors Journal that nonetheless stays true to its rich history of promoting critical and creative thinking on and off the university campus.

Letter from the Editors

April 2023

Dearest Readers,

We present the latest edition of the University of Colorado Boulder Honors Journal to you with delight and pride. As head editors, we have had the privilege to connect with some of the brightest and most talented undergraduate students through their stories, art, research, and essays. We are thrilled to share their work with you!

The Honors Journal spans the multifaceted interests and talents of our student body. Each year, students submit work from within their majors, while others reach across disciplines and colleges to pursue their extra-scholastic interests. It is no small task to curate the contents of this Journal from all the impressive pieces before us; however, those we have chosen are truly exceptional, and we are proud to showcase the hard work, dedication, and creativity of our fellow students.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the people who made this year's Honors Journal possible: to all the students who submitted their work—without you, our pages would be blank. To our editorial board—you worked diligently to select the material to fill those pages and ensure this edition was the best version of itself. And to our esteemed faculty advisor, Dr. Abby Hickcox, who guided and supported us all through the review and publication process.

In the pages that follow, you will find a diverse selection of works, including research papers, literature reviews, all styles of art pieces, and original compositions. From science and technology to philosophy and the humanities, this year's selections display the breadth and depth of the intellectual curiosity and scholarship that characterizes the University of Colorado, Boulder.

It brings us great joy to offer our student body the opportunity to publish their work and receive a bound, physical copy of it at the end of the year. We hope that this edition of the Honors Journal inspires you as much as it has us. In the years to come, we look forward to showcasing the exceptional work of CU students and sharing it with all of you.

Thank you for your interest in the University of Colorado Boulder Honors Journal!

Sincerely,

Niamh Horan & Taylor Henderson

Head Editors, University of Colorado Honors Journal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Fiction
29	Humanities
57	Poetry
77	Art
108	Gender & Ethnic Studies
115	Natural Science
127	Creative Nonfiction
139	Social Science

MEET THE BOARD

2023 HONORS JOURNAL

EDITORIAL BOARD

Head Editors

Taylor Henderson
Niamh Horan

Managing Editor

Ciera Starkweather

Associate Managing Editors

Hannuo Yang
Aidan Janney

Publicity Director & Finance Manager

Grace Knauer

Diversity & Inclusion Director

Alyssa Ripley

Graphic Designer

Caroline Cappelletti

Art Editors

Jessie Putman
Zeke Miles

Creative Nonfiction Editor

Anoush Ralapanawe

Fiction Editors

Ariel Feucht
Emily Archambault

Gender & Ethnic Studies Editor

Noah Mahoney

Humanities Editors

Garima Sabharwal
Anastasia Huffman

Natural Science Editors

Ethan James
Marwa Mommandi

Open Media Editor

Michaela Herbst

Poetry Editors

Orla McGrath
Makayla Sileo

Social Science Editors

Taylor Hannon
Reagan Emery

Faculty Advisor

Abby Hickcox

2023 HONORS JOURNAL